

HF Happenings

No 524

September 2012

The photograph in HF Happenings 523 was taken at the Vanderkloof Dam in the Northern Cape

The Vanderkloof Dam (originally the PK Le Roux Dam) is situated approximately 130 km downstream from the Gariep Dam and is fed by the Orange River, South Africa's largest river. Vanderkloof Dam is the second largest dam in South Africa (in volume), having the highest dam wall in the country at 108 metres. The dam has a capacity of 3 200 000 000 cubic metres and a surface area of 133,402 square kilometres.

South African Radio League
Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga

Member Society of the International Amateur Radio
Union since 1925

www.sarl.org.za; www.iaru.org
www.iaru-r1.org

SARL 80 m QSO Party

The October leg of this popular contest, hosted by the Durban ARC, will be run on Thursday evening 4 October starting at 17:00 UTC and ending at 20:00 UTC (19:00 to 22:00 CAT). It is a phone only contest using 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz. The exchange is your call sign, a RS signal report and your name.

Ten (10) points are scored for every contact with a South African station and fifteen (15) points for every contact with a station outside South Africa. Your log submission must be sent to the Durban ARC, 17 Brownlee Place, Bluff, Durban, 4052 or you can send it by e-mail to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za and must reach them by 19 October 2012.



Jamboree-on-the-Air / CQ Hou Koers

Scouts and Guides will be participating worldwide in the 55th Jamboree-on-the-Air and 16th Jamboree-on-the-Internet on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October 2012. This year's theme is "How big is your world?"



The Voortrekkers in South Africa and Namibia will be participating in CQ Hou Koers on Saturday 20 October.

JOTA is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country they usually think of attending a World Jamboree or another international gathering. However, few people realise that each year about half-a-million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the an-

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"





nual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern communication technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving home.....

Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, thousands of Scouts and Guides have "met" each other through this event. Not only is it fun to talk to Scouts from other parts of the world but it provides also a chance to find out about other countries and about Scouting elsewhere. Many contacts made during the JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between scout troops that have lasted for many years.

With no restrictions on age, on the number that can participate and at little or no expense, JOTA provides an opportunity for Scouts and Guides to contact each other by amateur radio. Licensed amateur radio operators operate the radio stations. Many Scouts and Leaders hold licences and have their own stations, but the majority participates in the JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Today some operators even use television or computer linked communications.

The world-wide JOTA is organised to coincide with the third full weekend of October each year. The event starts at 00:00 local time on the Saturday and concludes 48 hours later at 24:00 local time on the Sunday. Each station can choose its own operating hours within this period.

September

26 – SARL Club Contest, SSB
27 to 29 – Kalahari Kuierfees, Upington
28 – Schools close

October

2 to 7 – Clover Aardklop National Arts festival, Potchefstroom
4 – SARL 80 m QSO Party; World Habitat Day
8 – Schools open
13 and 14 – AWA Valve QSO Party
18 – Radio Amateur Examination
20 – Spring QRP Contest; National Marine Day
20 – CQ Hou Koers – Voortrekkers
20 and 21 – Jamboree on the Air / Jamboree on the Internet
22 and 23 – Rose Festival, Bloemfontein
26 to 28 – Classic Music Festival, Franschhoek
27 and 28 – CQ WW DX SSB Contest
27 to 29 – Night Ride and Full Moon Hikes, Stellenbosch
31 Oct to 3 Nov – Cape Town Military Tattoo

http://scout.org/en/information_events/events/jota/the_55th_jota_2012

CQ Hou Koers is 'n jaarlikse geleentheid waar Voortrekkers die geleentheid kry om per amateur-radio met ander Vories van regoor die land te gesels. Dit is terselfdertyd 'n kans om vaardighede te oefen / op te skerp wat vereis word vir kentekens soos Radiospraak en Radio-amateur. Dit gee kinders blootstelling aan 'n baie interessante tegniese en wetenskaplike stokperdjie wat stimulerend kan wees ten opsigte van loopbaankeuses.

Die vraag word dikwels gevra: Is radio nie oorbodig met nuwe tegnologie soos selfone en die Internet nie? Behalwe dat radio steeds 'n baie nuttige (en vergeleke met selfoonoproep - goedkoop!) hulpmiddel vir kampe en ander groot Voortrekkeergeleenthede is, leen dit hom ook uitstekend tot noodkommunikasie. Tydens rampe word telefoon- en selfooninfrastruktuur dikwels vernietig en elektriese toevoer onderbreek. Met amateur-radio kan daar binne minute 'n radiostasie op die been gebring word deur gebruik te maak van draagbare antennes en batteryrag.

CQ Hou Koers val saam met die Scouts se soortgelyke radiokommunikasieweek "Jamboree On The Air" - dit skep die geleentheid vir interessante interaksie tussen Scouts en Voortrekkers. <http://www.orionvoortrekkers.co.za/cq.htm>

PLEASE do not invite them to your shack; visiting a dentist would be more exciting! Do not be lazy, get out and take your radios on an outing!

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"





More on Kosovo

This article appeared on the CDXC reflector

Two CDXC Members (Nigel, G3TXF, and Bob, MDOCCE) were pleased to be able to play a small part in the recent re-launch of Amateur Radio in Kosovo.

CDXCers may be wondering why there has not been an earlier posting on this Reflector about the operation. Both of us were late invitees to the special event, on which Martti, OH2BH, has been working with the Kosovar Telecommunications Regulatory Agency continuously for several years. Martti had asked us to treat the information as confidential until the operation started and to allow him to issue the Press Releases under the control of Hans Blondeel Timmeran, PB2T, the President of IARU Region 1. This was not only sensible from an accuracy standpoint, but it was also only right as Hans, PB2T, of the IARU was involved, and also, of course, considering the sensitivities around the whole topic of Kosovo. We now have their permission to provide this short report to the CDXC Reflector.

The undoubted highlight of our visit to Kosovo was attending a ceremony hosted by the Kosovar Telecoms regulator (TRA), where the first of the country's new Amateur Radio licences were awarded. These licences were no ordinary licences. These radio amateurs are no ordinary radio amateurs. Most of them had been off the air for the past 23 years or more, and each was keen to get back on the air again, following Kosovo's move into the new era of full sovereign statehood on 10 September 2012.

These eleven Kosovar radio amateurs had each been active as YU8s back in the 'old days' of Yugoslavia. However, during the period of the various conflicts, which engulfed their region, most Kosovar radio amateurs were unable to operate at all. For the most part their equipment had been confiscated. With the issue of these brand new licences, the presentation ceremony on 17 September was indeed the start of a new era in amateur radio in Kosovo. The event was covered by the main TV station in Kosovo and shown on the 7:30 news; the first QSOs made by the new amateurs were shown on the 11:00 news.

Through their newly formed national society (SHRAK) it is hoped that this group will be the nucleus for the re-emergence of amateur radio as a self-training hobby throughout Kosovo, and particularly for the younger generation. The seminar which was organised by the TRA for the presentation of these new licences was attended by the Kosovo MP who is also the Cabinet Minister for Economic Development (which includes Telecommunications), the Chairman of the TRA (the Telecoms regulator) and a representative of the Ministry of Education (who sees Amateur Radio as a positive theme that could be usefully introduced both into schools and into technical colleges). Those attending the call sign licence presentation ceremony evidently appreciated the potential benefits of Amateur Radio as a foundation for further studies in electronics and telecommunications.

Hans, PB2T, spoke at the ceremonies and also spent a full-day with the TRA (regulator) discussing regulatory and licensing matters. Croatia, Finland and Turkey had advised the Kosovar government in the drafting of their telecommunications legislation, and Nik, 9A5W, had been specifically involved in the legislation related to Amateur Radio.

When asked by the newly licenced amateurs, Hans, PB2T, told them that Kosovo was not recognised by DXCC at this time, and that this ceremony and his visit had nothing to do with DXCC, but that the purposes of the trip were:

- To help insure that plans were in place for the re-establishment of an amateur radio infrastructure consisting of regulations similar to those in other IARU countries,
- The establishment of a radio society open to all amateurs in Kosovo,
- The development of new licensees and new entrants into amateur radio,

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"





- And the development of a robust society in all aspects that would eventually allow them to apply for IARU membership.

Hans, PB2T, accepted the licence for Z60K and became the trustee for the call sign related to this special event. The purpose of the Z60K special event operation was to help to raise awareness of the re-emergence of amateur radio in Kosovo.

As with any Amateur Radio station, the call sign is an important feature. The call sign uniquely identifies the operator and the location. As part of the process of establishing its independence Kosovo (which is now recognised by 91 countries including the USA, the UK and most of the industrialised world) the Telecoms regulator (TRA) has already set in train both formal and informal processes so that it be allowed to use the currently unallocated national prefix Z6. We were advised that this process was started by a letter sent to the ICAO (the UN's specialised aviation agency) in November of 2011 and that the 25-nation steering group appointed under the UN Settlement Process was still in an advisory and approval position in August 2012 when the Prime Minister announced Kosovo's intention to use Z6. This Z6 prefix would be used for aircraft registration numbers and for amateur radio stations in the usual prefix + number + letter(s) combination. Given that the country is not seeking UN membership at this time - with its attendant automatic ITU prefix allocation - Kosovo has relied on advice by its own experts and advisors and approval by the steering group. Z6 is not currently an ITU allocated prefix but is a free prefix that was selected in order to avoid clashing with other nations' allocations. We understand that the ITU has been notified about the use of the Z6 prefix in Amateur Radio in addition to the earlier November 2011 notification to ICAO. The eleven newly issued licences of 17 September were all in the series Z61xx. Most of the new licensees chose to use the same suffix that they had with their former YU8 calls more than 20 years earlier, e.g. ex-YU8FF is now Z61FF.

As part of the formal re-launch of Amateur Radio in Kosovo, the special event group call sign Z60K was issued to Hans PB2T, IARU Region 1 President. The new Kosovar operators themselves made the first QSOs with the new call sign Z60K during the evening following the presentation of the new licences. Unsurprisingly after over two decades of absence from the bands, many were quite microphone-shy at first. However, that will soon wear off once they get used to modern amateur radio equipment and as they catch up on the latest techniques and Amateur Radio operating practices. The Z60K shacks set up in hotel rooms were frequently visited by the new amateurs (and other non-amateurs from government and industry), sometimes several times per day as their work schedules permitted, so they could become more familiar with operating. At least two of the new amateurs are already on the air from their own stations with their new call signs, with more expected to follow soon. One not-yet licensed enthusiast who is very computer savvy was given several hours of tuition in Internet and computer related software, including downloading computer logging programs and demonstrations of various websites; he will provide tuition for the others in the Albanian language. RSGB licence manuals and an RSGB Yearbook were left as resource materials for the new Kosovar society. Meanwhile the group special event call sign Z60K was operated on a demonstration basis by a number of the visiting amateurs, including 9A5W, 9A9A, 9A6AA, G3TXF, N2BB/MD0CCE, OH2BH, OH2KI, OH2TA and PB2T.

This was not intended to be an all-bands, all-modes major DXpedition. It was primarily a demonstration activity, and definitely not a major full-blown operation. There were no announced frequencies. The duration of the operation was uncertain. Not all bands and modes were used. There were many interruptions to the operation when there were visitors in the shack or when there were outside meetings, training sessions and social functions. The various Z60K stations used relatively simple antennas. Nevertheless, the call sign Z60K was successfully activated on CW and SSB on 40, 30, 20, 17 and 15 m. The newly formalised regulations for operating





Amateur Radio in Kosovo do not yet include all the amateur bands used elsewhere. For example, 80 m is still missing, although in the longer term this band may well be introduced.

The TRA (the Kosovar Telecoms regulator) is now able to issue Z6/xxxx call signs to visiting radio amateurs. The formalities are very straightforward (e.g. copy of licence, completion of a one-page application form in English and payment of a €50 fee). We can probably expect a wave of Z6 activity from visiting radio amateurs during the up-coming CQ WW DX contests where Kosovo is now a "country multiplier."

Full details on the Z6 visitors' licences can be found at <http://www.art-ks.org/?cid=2,1>

We would like to thank the many CDXC members who worked the Z60K special event station (including some of the new local hams!) and offered supportive comments; they were much appreciated.

73 - Nigel, G3TXF, and Bob, MDOCCE

Operating Tip

Contest Elbow - that painful outcome of resting your arm on the elbow while you tune the radio for a long contest. Veteran of many hours at the rig, Ken, K6LA/VY2TT, suggests, "The best solution for forearm soreness problems is football elbow pads. I cut the cloth lengthwise and add Velcro straps across the pads to keep them on but loose enough to be comfortable." Game on!

What is the worst radio location in the world?

Well, it is not actually on *this* world, according to the Popular Science www.popsci.com/ article "Satellite Radio" in the October 2012 issue. The worst place turns out to be on the dark side of the Moon but the noise floor is really, really low!

African DX

South Africa, ZS. Bernie, ZS4TX, has announced he will operate in the Single Operator All Band High Power (SOABHP) category in the CQ WW DX RTTY Contest on 29 and 30 September. The log will be uploaded to the LoTW.

Tanzania, 5H. Arne, OH2NNE, will be active as 5H2DK from Moshi (Loc KI86qq) from 2 to 17 October using an Icom 706 MKIIG, SG-500 (100 watts amplifier), A3S tribander (10, 15 and 20 m) and dipoles. There may be also sporadic activity using a portable set-up from different locations from 18 to 27 October. This will be a one-man operation on SSB only. European stations are asked to call 5 up and all others 10 up. QSL via home call.

Kenya, 5Z. Sig, NV7E, will take part in the upcoming WW DX RTTY Contest (29 and 30 September) as SOABHP signing 5Z4EE from Nairobi. He has announced that he will participate in the WW DX SSB Contest (27 and 28 October) and the WW DX CW Contest (24 and 25 November). QSL via homecall, preferably direct or via bureau.

African Islands

Madeira Islands, CT3. Members of the Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA) will be active again from Santana on Ilha da Madeira (AF-014, DIP MA-001, PIP MD-001, WLOTA 0053, WFF CTFF-030, DPRN FF-101) signing CR3L in the multi-OP category of the WW DX RTTY Contest (29 and 30 September). QSL via DJ6QT. See also <http://www.cr3l.de>





Canary Islands, EA8, AF-004. Rob, EA8/DL7VOA, will be active mainly on CW working holiday style from the west coast of Tenerife between 30 September and 6 October. QSL via homecall.

Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZD9, AF-029. Depending on the weather, Rob, MOVFC, will be active as ZD9UW from Tristan da Cunha between 27 September and 4 October. Rob works SSB on 80 to 10 m. Activities on 160 and 6m are not planned. If time and pile-ups permit, he may work also some RTTY. An OQRS system (for direct and bureau QSLs) will be offered as well. See also <http://www.zd9uw.org.uk>. According to the ZD9UW Web page: "Martin, G3ZAY, has been forced to cancel his onward journey from Cape Town to Tristan."

Special Event Stations

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 September to 1 October 2012.

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 26 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 September 2012

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 September and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 29 September 2012

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)





Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, CW

19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 September

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: 100W; 10W

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 4 October 2012

Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/rsprint.shtml>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 September

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 September 2012

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest

00:00 UTC 29 September to 24:00 UTC 30 September

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - high, low or QRP; Single Op Single Band - high, low or QRP; Single

Op Assisted All Band - high, low or QRP; Single Op Assisted Single Band - high, low or QRP;

Multi-Single - high or low; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: 48 States/Canada: RST, CQ Zone and state or VE area; All Others: RST and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each US state/VE area once per band; Each DXCC/WAE country once per band; Each CQ zone once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 15 October 2012

E-mail logs to: rtty@cqww.com

Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwrtty_cab.php

Mail logs to: Ed Muns, W0YK, PO Box 1877, Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877, USA

Find rules at:





http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules/2012_cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules.pdf

Texas QSO Party

14:00 UTC 29 September to 02:00 UTC 30 September and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 30 September

Mode: All

Bands: All, except WARC

Classes: Fixed Single Op Mixed; Fixed QRP Single Op; Fixed Single Op CW; Fixed Single Op Phone; Fixed Multi-Op; TX Mobile Single Op Mixed; TX Mobile Multi-Op; TX Mobile Single Op CW; TX Mobile Single Op Phone

Max power: HP: >5 watts CW/digital, >10 watts phone; QRP: 5 watts CW/digital, 10 watts phone

Exchange: TX: RS(T) and county; non-TX: RS(T) and state, province, country or MM region

Work stations: Once per band per mode per county

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 3 points per CW/digital QSO

TX Stations: 500 bonus points for each TX mobile worked in 5 different counties; 1 000 bonus points for each TX county covered with at least 5 QSOs; non-TX Stations: 500 bonus points for each TX mobile worked in 5 different counties and another 500 bonus points for working the same TX mobile in an additional 5 counties

Multipliers: TX Stations: Each TX county, state, province, DXCC country once; non-TX Stations: Each TX county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 31 October 2012

E-mail logs to: no5w.chuck@gmail.com

Mail logs to: TQP Committee, 24415 Deep Meadow Dr, Tomball, TX 77375, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.txqp.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=53

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 October

SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 October

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 October

YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest, 14:00 UTC 5 October to 02:00 UTC 7 October

EPC Russia DX Contest, 04:00 UTC 6 October to 03:59 UTC 7 October

WAB HF Phone 12:00 UTC 6 October to 12:00 UTC 7 October

California QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 6 October to 22:00 UTC 7 October

EU Autumn SSB Sprint, 16:00 - 19:59 UTC 6 October

UBA ON SSB Contest, 06:00 - 10:00 UTC 7 October

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 24 September 2012.

1452 - First printed book published, Johann Guttenberg's Bible

1608 - Hans Lippershey offers Dutch government a new invention, the telescope

1608 - Prototype of modern reflecting telescope completed by Jan Lippershey

"Amateur radio is the most exciting of all technological hobbies"





- 1825 - Railroad transportation is born with first track in England
- 1879 - Sydney Australia inaugurates steam motor tram route
- 1908 - Henry Ford introduces the Model T car (costs \$825)
- 1936 - Radio used for first time for a US presidential campaign
- 1983 - Australia II wins America's Cup yacht race (first non-US winner)

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

